

## PREVENTION

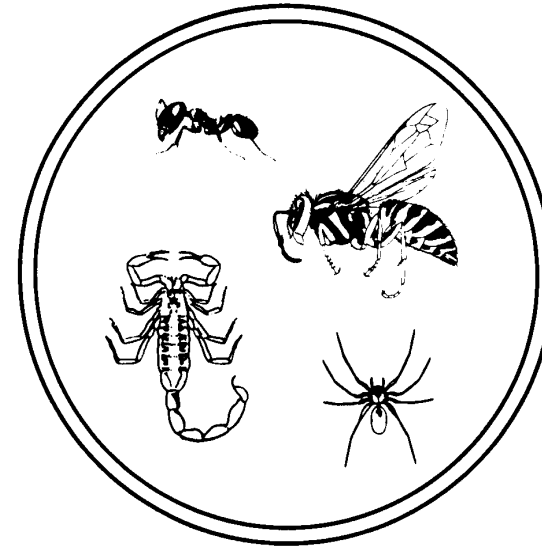
GTA 8-5-48

Most injuries resulting from venomous arthropods can be prevented.

1. If you are allergic to certain stings/bites, be prepared with the proper medication.
2. Ask the local inhabitants about the local venomous/harmful arthropods.
3. Avoid touching unfamiliar arthropods or allowing them to touch you.
4. Watch where you put your hands and feet.
5. Before using, check places where harmful arthropods may hide.
  - a. Closets/wall spaces/doorways/eaves.
  - b. Outdoor privies/latrines/boxes.
  - c. Bedclothing/beds/sleeping bags.
  - d. Shoes/boots/clothing.
  - e. Logs/felled trees/leaves.
  - f. Rocks/boards/debris.
6. Avoid bee hives, ant and wasp nests, and spider webs.
7. Wear foot protection (shoes, boots, and sandals) at all times.
8. Hang up clothes.
9. Practice good sanitation by removing debris/trash/board piles.
10. Avoid wearing deodorants, colognes, perfumes, or cosmetics with fragrances.

# VENOMOUS ARTHROPODS

*SYMPTOMS · PREVENTION · FIRST AID*



**ARTHROPODS are segmented invertebrates with jointed antennae and legs. They include insects, arachnids, centipedes and millipedes.**

**INSECTS (bees, wasps, hornets, yellow jackets, ants, and caterpillars)  
ARACHNIDS (spiders and scorpions)  
CENTIPEDES and MILLIPEDES**

**Of all deaths due to venomous stings/bites in a year, most are caused by arthropods.**

**INSECTS**

**Treatment**

1. Bees often leave their stinger and poison sac embedded in the skin of their victim. Using your fingernail or a knife blade, scrape them away to prevent further poison from being pumped into the skin. (Wasps, hornets, and yellow jackets do not leave their stingers.) Many caterpillars have hollow, venom-filled hairs on their bodies, which may break off into the skin. Place tape over the sting area to remove them.
2. Ice packs or cold compresses will relieve the immediate burning sensation and pain. Other treatments include: a baking soda paste, household ammonia, and household meat tenderizer.
3. If the victim exhibits headaches, itching, a feeling of bodily discomfort, anxiety, or hives: consult a physician immediately. (These symptoms indicate a potential for allergic reaction.) A moderate allergic reaction would include the above symptoms plus two or more of the following: constriction of the chest or throat, abdominal pain, nausea, vomiting, dizziness, or wheezing.

**ARACHNIDS  
SPIDERS**

The most dangerous spiders are the black widow and the brown recluse.

***Black Widow***

Identified by a shiny black body and a red hourglass or red markings on the abdomen.

***Brown Recluse***

Identified as a small, light brown spider with a dark brown violin on the head/back.

**Treatment**

Consult a physician immediately.

**SCORPIONS**

The most dangerous scorpion in the U.S. is found in Arizona and small portions of New Mexico. Other dangerous scorpions are found in Mexico, Central America, South America, the Mediterranean area, North Africa, South Africa, and India.

**Treatment**

1. Do not give morphine/morphine derivatives or Demerol.
2. Ice packs/cold compresses relieve pain and slow venom spread (avoid freezing of tissue).
3. Consult a physician immediately unless specific knowledge of the scorpion is known.

**CENTIPEDES**

Centipede bites are painful but not life threatening.

**Treatment**

Similar to bee, wasp, hornet, yellow jacket, and ant stings. Watch for allergic reactions.

**MILLIPEDES**

Millipedes secrete a toxin from glands in the body: this toxin causes burning and itching but is not life threatening.

**Treatment**

1. Wash the skin thoroughly.
2. Similar to bee, wasp, hornet, yellow jacket, and ant stings.